

Docket No. 10000-1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Buchanan et al.

Serial No.: 09/107787

Filed: June 30, 1998

For: VAPOR/LIQUID CONTACTING CYCLONE WITH
SECONDARY VANES

Art Unit: 1724

Examiner: G.S. Bushey

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Fairfax, VA 22037

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicant has requested that an election be made by Applicant between Group I, which includes claims 1-9, drawn to a apparatus, and Group II, which includes claim 10, which is drawn to a process. The Applicants elect Group I, **with traverse**. The process of Group II **cannot** be performed in another, materially different apparatus, because the process steps are inextricably linked with type of apparatus employed.

The reason provided by the Examiner for the restriction was that the apparatus of Group I could be used to perform another and materially different process, such as one in which fluids were directed through only a single liquid downcomer in an apparatus wherein the cyclonic devices are arranged in parallel and fluidically isolated from one another. Claims 1,2, and 3 each recite different methods for fluid to enter the cyclone. An embodiment of the invention disclosed in this application could contain one or all of these methods. Claim 1

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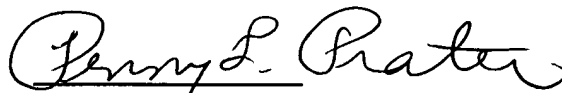
recites a port in the downcomer walls, Claim 2 recites a plenum, and Claim 3 recites a tray. Only the apparatus of claim 1 recites a downcomer. A downcomer need not be present in claim 2 and 3 at all, and these claims could be amended to indicate that a downcomer is not present. An apparatus as recited in claim 2 or 3 could not then be used to practice the process described by the Examiner.

Applicants **elect species (a)** as illustrated by Figure 2. Claims 2 and 3 do not read upon the species of Figure 2, since claim 2 recites the presence of a plenum located **near** (not in) the floor of the cyclonic device and Claim 3 recites fluid entry through a tray. Neither of these features is illustrated in Figure 2 or in Figures 3-5 either, Figures 3 and -5 are variations of Figure 2, which illustrate additional (unclaimed) features such as capping vanes and annular hats.

Claims 1,5-9 read upon species (a).

Please proceed with examination of this application. It is the opinion of the Applicants that claims 1-10 should be examined together, although Group I species (a) is elected.

Respectfully submitted,



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Applicant(s): **Buchanan et al.**

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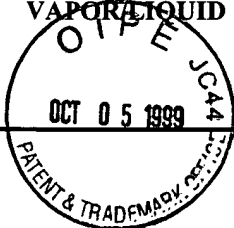
Examiner

Bushey

Group Art Unit

1724

Invention: **VAPOR/LIQUID CONTACTING CYCLONE WITH SECONDARY VANES**



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